CLAIMS

1. A method of billing subscribers in a telecommunication network, wherein each subscriber has billing accounts that are charged when services of the telecommunication network are used, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** by

5   forming at least one subscriber billing group (G1, G2) comprising two or more subscribers (MS1...MS6), each subscriber having a billing account of his or her own in a billing database; and

     determining at least one subscriber in the group (G1, G2) as a master subscriber (MS1), who has a right to access said billing database and

10   carry out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group.

     2. A method as claimed in claim 1, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the master subscriber (MS1) has the right to access said billing database through said telecommunication network.

15   3. A method as claimed in claim 1, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the master subscriber (MS1) carries out balance transfers between the billing accounts within said group (G1, G2).

     4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, **c h a r a c - t e r i z e d** in that said billing account has a limited balance, and the master

20   subscriber (MS1) changes the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

     5. A method as claimed in claim 4, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

     6. A method as claimed in claim 5, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the

25   credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

     7. A system wherein each subscriber has billing accounts in a billing database (10) that are charged when services of a telecommunication network are used, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that

     at least one subscriber billing group (G1, G2) comprising two or

30   more subscribers (MS1...MS6) is formed in a subscriber database (2-2), each subscriber having a billing account of his or her own in the billing database (10), and at least one subscriber in the group is a master subscriber (MS1), who has a right to access said billing database (10) and carry out predetermined procedures in and between the accounts of the subscriber billing group,

35   and in that

a telecommunication server is connected to the subscriber database (2-2) through which server the master subscriber (MS1) establishes a connection through said telecommunication network in order to carry out said facilities in the billing database (10).

5   8. A system as claimed in claim 7, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the master subscriber (MS1) has the right to access said billing database through said telecommunication network.

9. A system as claimed in claim 7 or 8, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said facilities comprise a balance transfer between the billing accounts within 10   said group.

10. A system as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 9, **c h a r a c - t e r i z e d** in that said billing account has a limited balance, and said facilities comprise changing the balance limit or balance of the billing account.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that 15   said billing account is a prepayment account and/or an account equipped with a credit limit.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the credit limit is obtained from the balance of the master subscriber.

13. A system as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, **c h a r a c - 20   t e r i z e d** in that the master subscriber (MS1) has access to said telecommunication service by making a facility call to a predetermined service number.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said telecommunication server is an automatic answering apparatus.

15. A system as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, **c h a r a c - 25   t e r i z e d** in that said telecommunication server is a World Wide Web (WWW) server.

16. A system as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, **c h a r a c - t e r i z e d** in that said telecommunication server is a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) server.

30   17. A system as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 12, **c h a r a c - t e r i z e d** in that said telecommunication server is a short message centre or a short message server.